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Talking Diversity with Michael Nixon

New Vice-President for Diversity



PHOTO PROVIDED BY IMC



THE CARNIVAL COMES TO TOWN

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"The only way I can learn about others sensitivities is to dialouge with them"

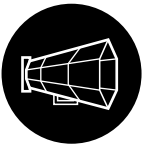
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NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

"Paul Kim is the new chair of the Visual Arts, Communications and Design Department"

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Lisa Hayden
News Editor

Seek. Affirm. Change Day


CHANGE HUB

Change

Day

Local

Global



8
DAYS

4
HOURS

42
MINUTES

22
SECONDS

CHANGE DAY 2017

Sharyl Cubero | For the first time in Andrews University history there will be a campus-wide Change Day. To those who are unfamiliar with the event, Change Day is a new initiative launched by the Office of the Provost to make an impact on the community—a fresh take on the mission of Andrews University seeking to transform its students. Faculty, students and community members have been preparing this event for a long time. In fact, several signs, posters and announcements have been made to advertise what is coming ahead. Dean Deborah Weithers said, “I am so glad that the university is coming together to do something that will benefit the entire community. Not only will it do something for our local community, but it will also do something good for us as we help other people.”

President of Andrews University Graduate Student Association (AUG-SA) Mark Reid said, “Change Day is something new to campus but it allows us to live out Christian values and put them into practice by helping our neighbor.”

Change Day is going to focus on the latter part of the Andrews mission by giving back to our community through acts of service. Around 60 organizations from the Southwest Michigan area have been invited to make service requests on the Andrews website to connect them with volunteers on campus. Volunteers excited about service opportunities can find listings of each organization that they may join that day (some may require prior registration) on ChangeHub, located on the Andrews University website. Some students have already found the organizations that they want to benefit.

Berrien Springs native Crystal-Anne Tan (junior, global studies) said, “I am really excited about Change Day because this community raised me, so this is my chance to give back. I personally want to go to Mars Elementary School because that is where I went as a child and it holds a special place in my heart.”

On Thursday, Sept. 14 from 8:00AM- 3:30PM all classes and offices will be closed in order to support this campus-wide initiative. Volunteers who would like to take part in Change Day should come ready to make a difference to their community in clothes that they do not mind getting dirty. It is recommended that long pants and closed-toe shoes are worn. Volunteers will also be given a Change Day 2017 T-shirt. The day will kick off at the flagpole, where students will be able to sign up for a project site where they will spend a portion of the day working. Breakfast will be provided to everyone who chooses to participate. Volunteers will then gather together and begin traveling to their destination. Transportation for faculty, staff and students to location sites will be done through buses and carpooling. When the acts of service have been completed, lunch and debriefing will be done in the Howard Performing Arts Center.

Reid said, “the mission of Andrews University seeks to transform students by ‘educating them to seek knowledge and affirm faith in order to change the world.’ Changing the world doesn’t start when we leave Andrews. It starts now.”

The Carnival Comes to Town



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRYL BRILEY

Shannon Kelly | Shouts of glee and jubilant laughter mingled with the upbeat music floating across the Andrews University campus on Monday, September 4 Andrews University Student Association AUSA hosted their first major event of the new school year: a Labor Day carnival.

The Labor Day bash attracted people of all ages, from small children to adults. Brightly colored inflatable bounce houses and slides dotted the athletic field. A dunk tank stood at one end, where AUSA officers were drenched. Sumo wrestling, basketball, “speed-o-meter,” face painting,

and of course, food were other attractions. Students got the chance to meet their AUSA officers, spend time with old friends, and make new ones while enjoying their day off. AUSA Social Vice President, Jordanne Howell-Walton (senior, psychology), planned the event, drawing inspira-

“We’re a huge family here at Andrews”

tion from her experiences at various state and county fairs growing up. “Where I grew up in Massachusetts, we have this fair called the ‘Big E,’” she explained. “Every state in New England comes together, and they do carnival food, and different games and different rides. And when I moved here to Michigan, I experienced my first county fair.” Going out to a fair was a yearly Labor Day family tradition for Howell-Walton, and this year she decided to bring the fun to Andrews University. She hoped to make the carnival a place for everyone and serve as an icebreaker. Kevin Moreno (Master of Divinity, fourth year), and his wife attended the event with their two little children. They loved the family-friendliness of the event, and Moreno especially enjoyed Sumo wrestling. “I’ve always wanted to do that,” he said. “I like the bounce house,” Sydney Hutchins (sophomore, animal science), said after participating in mul-

tiple activities. For Edward Breja (junior, computer science), the pizza and funnel cake was the best part. “I like the food,” he said between bites. “That’s the main reason I came here.” The fun was not limited to participants alone. “Some people are observers, [some] people are participants, so my goal with each event is to create a space for everyone,” Jordanne noted. Something that “gives you the opportunity to be like, oh yeah, like, this is cool to watch, but this is also fun to participate in.” Her goal appears successful. Ellyn Burdick (sophomore, communications) sat in the sun observing the activity around her. “I enjoy it vicariously,” she said. “Watching other people enjoy it is good enough for me.” “I am so excited and eager to be planning these events, and I love feedback from students,” Howell-Walton said. “I love hearing how they feel about events, and that helps me learn how to create and plan better events

for the future in the school year so that everyone has a place, because everyone is welcome. We’re a huge family here at Andrews,” she smiled. Anyone who wishes to provide feedback or suggestions to Howell-Walton may contact her via Facebook. AUSA has many more fun events in the works, two of which are coming up this month: Outdoor Sabbath is set for September 16, and Spirit Week begins September 25.

Luxtons Campus of Care

Gabrielle Johnson | On Thursday, August 31st, students made their way towards Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) to attend University Convocation, a welcome back chapel event that is held at the beginning of each school year. At this event, faculty, staff, and students gather together to listen as the President expresses the theme for the year. In the President’s address, Andrea Luxton described the type of environment she envisions for the student body by using three simple concepts. First, Luxton explained that she desires “a campus that models civility”. In other words, students should communicate with each other in a respectful way; whether it be face-to-face or through social media. According to Luxton, freedom of speech comes with responsibilities and she will not tolerate any defamation of character or race on this campus.

Therefore, she calls for students to refrain from discriminating, demeaning, and destroying each other through the use of words. Next, Luxton explained that she desires “a campus that lives and knows

Finally, Luxton expressed that she desires “a campus that engages with each other and enjoys it.” In other words, the president hopes for this campus to feel like a community. At Andrews, there are many

place, and 4). Care for your Creator. Shortly after leaving the service, Aliyah Bright (junior, elementary education) expressed her thoughts about University Convocation. She stated, “It was amazing to hear

ident speak. I really liked what she said and I am very grateful that she is our leader.” Also, Jade Romelus (senior, nursing major) said, “The convocation was an exciting start to the new year with the whole student body present. The vibrant mixture of comedy presented by the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) team and the introduction of new members to the administration left me with hope and excitement for the new school year; it left me with the hope of change”. Overall, President Luxton’s address expresses her vision for the campus this school year and left the responsibility of bringing this vision to fruition in the hands of the Andrews University student body.

“A campus that lives and knows the gospel”

the gospel.” Here, the president is calling for students to put theory into practice. Yes, as a Christian, one may know what the Bible requires one to do, but it is another thing to actually do what is required. As a result, Luxton calls for the students to embody the actions of Christ, such as through spreading love, honesty, and truth.

ways that students can engage with each other, whether it be by talking to someone who shares a different experience than you or discovering other cultures. To conclude her speech, President Luxton said that she will hold the student body accountable for four things: 1). Care for oneself, 2). Care for each other, 3). Care for this

information coming from people you would not normally relate too. In fact, Luxton’s speech was very relatable.” Other students buzzed with excitement about the upcoming year, such as Amanda Pechero (freshman, mechanical engineering). She stated, “I thought that it was extremely cool to see and hear the pres-



Frentzen Pakpahan
Ideas Editor

Ethnic Congregations

Frentzen Pakpahan | Throughout my childhood and teenage years, my old church would tour the other churches in New Hampshire and lead out in worship service. They were especially interested in the instruments we brought for special music – anklung--piped instruments that, when shaken, produced a wonderful array of notes few thought could be coaxed out of clanging wood--and kolintang, wooden xylophones. Sometimes I felt out of place, as if I and my culture was a gimmick. What enthralled me more were the intelligible words of the preacher because the sermon was always in English at the American churches.

As a Seventh-day Adventist and a second-generation immigrant, my view of ethnic congregations, I venture, is typical of those in my shoes. My parents practiced their English

at home with me and so I never mastered Bahasa Indonesia, the language of my home islands. My God was Indonesian, which is to say He was boring and vaguely understood, His substance evaporating in Bahasa’s large vocabulary and complex morphology. I was only familiar with broken potluck English, and confusion on my end.

However, my problem with ethnic congregations goes beyond the language barrier, which by no means was insurmountable. Rather, I struggle to find a place for it within the Christian mission of inclusiveness and openness for all believers. If the walls of separation we construct for ourselves do indeed dissolve within the Fountain of Living Water, if there really is “neither Jew nor Gentile [...] for you are all one in Christ Jesus” then it would seem to me that Indo-

nesian, Hispanic, Caribbean, Korean, African churches would all need to lose whatever cultural and ethnic identity they claim to in order that Christ’s ideal for the church might be fulfilled.

I understand the difficulty inherent in this proposal. Both America and the Church are meant to be melting pots. That means that the ingredients should one day become homogeneous, sharing, at the very least, a common language, common principles, and common culture. However, for the immigrant landing in JFK, LAX, ATL, or ORD for the first time, having finally received their Green Card or Student Visa or whatever the document may be, the idea that they let go of their native tongue, the sounds and mannerisms that form their identity is terrifying and shameful. My parents, upon immigrating to

New England, joined an Indonesian church because it provided a safe, comfortable environment in which they could slowly acclimate and assimilate into American society. Without RISDAC and DISDAC or any of the ISDACs (Indonesian SDA Churches) and the resources and spiritual nourishment they provided in an alien and sometimes hostile nation, they might never have been able to appreciate what this nation does have to offer – freedom from persecution, opportunity to carve out a slice of the pie, hope for myself and my sister. Ethnic congregations are specially equipped and placed to serve their own demographics better than others.

But what often happens is that ethnic congregations become insular and difficult to approach for the sincere seeker. They become more invested in preserving their culture and

bringing more of their own into the fold than in preparing Christian immigrants and citizens to serve Christ and their country (in that order). One’s culture can become a temptation to pride, the greatest separator. No church is free of this sin and I understand the usefulness of ethnic congregations. Only let us be mindful that the church is a platform for ministry and outreach to a world in need, rather than a social club.

Christian Hypocrisy Joel Olsteen

Sam Barrett | Matthew 24 talks about natural disasters and their increasing intensity as one of the many evidences that indicate the soon coming of Christ. There are certainly some arguments for prophecy with the hurricane, but then again maybe not, but if there is any Christian topic associated with Hurricane Harvey, it’s Joel Osteen. Osteen has been made out to be a hypocrite ever since he supposedly denied people seeking shelter from the hurricane access to his megachurch. This narrative is not entirely true as neighboring roads were flooded making the building more or less inaccessible. The building is five miles from a shelter in the George R. Brown Convention Center, with Osteen’s building planned to be used as a backup shelter in case the shelter reaches its capacity limits. Osteen never denied people seeking

shelter from the hurricane.

With that said, though I am no fan of Joel Osteen nor am I a fan of his theology, I do think people should be prudent to do their own investigation into things when the opportunity presents itself. However, let us say, for argument’s sake, that Joel Osteen did deny victims and that the story of Joel Osteen offering no aid to those in need was true. As Christians, we must examine what we have done for the flood victims ourselves. The

fact that one bad example may exist within the church (and there are plenty of bad examples) does not nullify anything that was spoken of in the Gospels or their application to us. In Matthew 25: 35-36, Jesus explains the actions worthy of reward to those

given the Kingdom of Heaven “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and

you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Joel Osteen is certainly not viewed well by many Americans ever since Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, but few Christians can claim good reputations. Too few Christians do what

Jesus commands us: namely, to let our light shine. Today this world is in one of its darkest stages. Unless Christians, including you and I, do God’s work of both spreading the gospel and aiding those in need, those

who are suffering will struggle to find relief and may reject God and the church entirely. If it isn’t us, then who will it be? If every Christian chooses to criticize rather than actively help those in need, including the students of Andrews University (whether it be feeding a poor man on the streets or even simply interacting with those who need social interaction) if Christians do not serve the poor and helpless, then Christians cannot claim to represent God’s character of love. Many have complaints against Christians for reason of hypocrisy, and they have a point. We must let our light shine before others and seek the lost, but many Christians continue to live their lives as if Christ’s challenge doesn’t apply to them. Friends, “first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.” We

“First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your enighbors eye.”

Ideas

I Am a Hyphenated American. Are you?



Teddy Kim | Perhaps you've heard this claim before: "Andrews is a diverse university." I am inclined to believe that it is true. This multiculturalism on campus, however, presents a problem to those claiming that Andrews is diverse. How may one properly unify such an eclectic group of student and staff? When an artistic urbanite attends class alongside a small-town international student, how can you find a common thread that doesn't erase the unique differences between them? One solution the administration found is to utilize the statement above: proudly claim that Andrews is diverse. By highlighting this quality, the university can utilize the "unity in diversity" principle: that despite the stark differences within the student body, everyone is still a member of this Andrews family. This way, we can say we are all part of the same place and consider ourselves one unified group. We can say that we are proud of how many different parts our whole is made up of. And perhaps most conveniently when we accept a uniform identity, we can lay aside even our grandest distinctions.

Or, so the idea may seem. Elsewhere besides Andrews, problems arise with this approach of trying to unify

too many backgrounds. The country we live in provides many examples of how messy the integration gets. As we have seen nearly daily, the United States contains a plethora of racial-identity related issues, as it is one of the few countries that can claim no real ethnocentricity. And when an institution like itself, or Andrews, brings in that many different groups under one umbrella, what will happen? How smoothly will the various mix of races merge? Questions like these encompass the plight of the hyphenated American, a term that includes the Latino-American, African-American, and other Americans with a clear (or unclear) and distinct heritage or background. The hyphenated American often experiences dual identities, with one life comprised of their American heritage, and the other of their ethnic background. Often, we as hyphenated Americans experience life through two different lenses, which can help us gain unique perspectives.

Yet, what ensues within a hyphenated American's life is not great opportunity. Instead, confusion, frustration, and identity-insecurity emerge. Because we have one foot in two doorways, we are not welcome to share experiences in either our American

or inherited ethnicity's context. And sometimes, we are simply not welcome as members of either group. How often have American store owners gawked at me when I walked onto their threshold, as they assume me as something different from them. Do they not realize my strong alignment as an American? Yet simultaneously, how often have I also been labeled as the "other" from Asian purists. They believe me to have abandoned ethnicity and betrayed my homogenous background. Little do they know how proudly I carry the first part of hyphenated label, Korean-American. Yet despite these pleas, I am outcast and ostracized in both contexts. I do not belong to either group, as they do not take people that give any hints of ethnic ambiguity. And in what many others as myself also see as the solution, I have given up parts of my identity to feel integrated to both sides. I felt that to be "fully American", I needed to release an integral part of my inherited self. Hence, I cannot converse in Korean. However, I also felt that to properly mantle my "Asian background", I had to abdicate parts of my American childhood. That is why I support Korean products in place of American ones. Yet, who knows to what economic extent this impacts my country?

Clearly, part of the problem is how many of us hyphenated Americans feel that to reach an appropriate level of American-ness, we must erase a piece of our heritage. We feel that fragments from our two backgrounds cannot fit with one another. To shed some light on this dilemma, let's return to the original analogy, the Andrews University label. No one at Andrews has this type of identity crisis. We do not feel torn between our "Andrews University student" tag and other parts of ourselves. At first glance, the "why" is obvious enough. Part of the reason we don't have ethnic-identity breakdowns is because we do not deeply attach the school we attend as a large portion of our selfhood. We don't buy school memorabilia, we don't know the names of our administrative board, and we certainly do not know (or maybe even care) about most of the events going on around campus that don't pertain to us. Most of us come here for less than four years, caring much more about our achievement and ability rather than the identity designation we receive as "AU students". Perhaps it is in this nonchalant attitude of personhood that lies the key to solving the nation's problem. At Andrews, it is not our ethnicity or background that comprises most of

our identity but rather the achievements we have, the relationships we build and the personal touch we have with everyone we encounter. It is not the outside appearance that dictates people's judgment of who we are, but our persona and mannerism that does. In other words, most of us here care little whether you are from Saigon, Morocco, or LA. What really matters is how you interact with me, which dictates how I will reciprocate. I cannot help but speculate if this is the simple solution: to see each other as the fully-developed human inside, and prioritize action rather than appearance. Then perhaps the need for labels and the practice of integrating people of "different" races might become outdated. Then perhaps hyphenated Americans like myself will no longer have to struggle with identity. Then perhaps would we set aside our man-made differences, and work towards finding the unity in our diversity. We are all humans; shouldn't we embrace it?



Carlye Tagalog
Pulse Editor

Cardinals Ready for Action



PHOTO BY TORIAN HILL

Torian Hill | The men’s soccer tryouts are officially finished and the team is now getting ready for their first game, which will take place this Friday, September 8th, against Concordia University at the latter’s home field. Both recruited and returning players have come in two weeks prior to their first game to do conditioning

at 6:30 in the morning and practice from 5:00-7:00 in the evening every day during the week. With this rigorous training schedule, players have become fitter and ready for this week’s game. The selection process for this year’s team was very different for head coach Al Grashuis and assistant

coach Victor Pintilie. In comparison to the seven players that the head coach started with last year, this year has had nearly 30 people try out, with the intention to carry a team of 24 with only five returning players. The last day of tryouts took place last Thursday, August 31st, and the final team was announced this Monday, September the 4th. Although the coaching staff had to make hard decisions when finalizing the team, they are confident about the current lineup they will carry to represent Andrews this week Friday. I had the opportunity to speak to coach Grashuis to get his thoughts on this year’s team and this week’s game. Grashuis said, “recruiting some very talented freshmen is going to be a big help. We also have some good returning players which will help show the way. We are building up for the future and that will help our team overall.” From the first two weeks of practice, this team has already been a good mixture between the new talent and experience and

this season will be a good test to see how well they work together. “I think that both returning players and new players are complementing each other well and that is very impressive to me,” said the coach. During my interview with the head coach, I wanted to get his take on the upcoming game. “We prepare the same way we do for any other game,” Grashuis said. “One team is no more special or different than any other. If I have the film available then I will watch that and make the necessary changing to the team based on the opponent’s’ skill level and things of that nature, but other than that we are looking good.” After only a few practices the confidence of the players has risen and they are excited to play on Friday. The expectations for this season are higher than last and Andrews is ready to see what this year’s team can produce. “I expect us to be a lot better than last year. We were able to have a different approach, as I did not come in as late this year and have had more players

to choose from and am now able to work with the final team,” said coach Grashuis. This week’s game will be Concordia’s fourth game of the season and Andrews’ first. That will make it challenging because of the team’s inexperience but a win is still the outcome we are looking for. Victor Nyachieo (senior, right-back player) said, “I am nervous for our first game because I do not know how we play yet on a big stage, but I am excited because it will give us the chance to see how we play and a chance to reevaluate afterwards.” The Cardinals played Concordia last year here in Berrien Springs and lost but this year they plan to write a different story and not only come back for revenge but start the season off right. Next Monday, September 11, will be the team’s first home game. All are invited to attend and support the Cardinals.

Dorm Room Survival

Brandon Shin | August has finally come and gone, and along with it, the first week of school. The stress of moving into the dorm has been replaced with the stress of classes. Some of you may be entering (or returning to) college with an idealistic picture of how the year will progress. You have so many fun ideas and expectations for what you will do. However, in order to execute these plans, you must first live in and survive the dorm(s). Here’s how to do it:

Part I: ROOMMATES

Some of you may be accustomed to living with another person, because of family or boarding school experiences, while others of you may not be. However, the possibility still remains that, no matter your background, you and your new living partner may not be quite compatible. If you are suitable roommates, then continue onto Part II. If not, keep reading. You and your roommate do not need to be the closest of friends, although it will make life much easier. If the relationship is not working, make some adjustments. Talk to them about the habits that bother you, and perhaps offer to make some changes your-

self! But if necessary, more drastic measures can be taken. Because you can get checked-in anywhere within the dorm, you can crash in a friend’s room, and if they’re okay with it, move in as well. There is also a new roommate convention sometime during the semester. The most important thing is personal comfort, because a year is a long time to live with somebody who leaves their dirty laundry on YOUR bed.

Part II: STUDYING

A lot of distractions exist in the dorm, ranging from the temptation to hang out in your friends’ rooms, desperately binge-watch Game of Thrones, or contemplate why the walls in the dorm are so thin that you can almost hear your neighbors breathing. So find your studying rhythm and try your best to stay motivated. If you don’t, you’re going to have an incredibly difficult time this semester. Figure out what methods work for you and stick to them, whether they involve taking notes on the reading, listening to music to help you focus, or even moving to different locations around campus.

Part III: LAUNDRY

There are many other men or women living in the same building as you who also want to wear clean clothes. The best way to avoid competition is to either do your laundry early in the morning (around 7:00-10:00 AM), or late at night (around 10:00-11:00 PM). Choosing to do your laundry in the afternoons and early evenings (about 12:00-5:00 PM) will leave you scrambling for open washers and dryers. In addition, don’t leave your clothing in the machines. If you do this, three possible consequences can occur. Option 1: The lovely lads or ladies at Meier Hall or Lamson Hall may place your wet clothes into a dryer, perhaps even with a dryer sheet! Thanks! Option 2: The other patrons living in the dorm, whether it be Meier or Lamson, may take your clothes out of the dryer or washer and place them on that crusty counter near the wall. Nobody likes that, so keep track of your laundry timers. Option 3: You may return to the laundry room, excited to wear your favorite, now warm, clean t-shirt. However, to your dismay, when you open the dryer, your favorite shirt, along with a pair of sweatpants, one

sock, and some shorts are missing. You may either never see these articles again or will see somebody else wearing them. Do not let this happen to you. Again, keep track of your laundry timers.

Part IV: CUFFING SEASON

Long-distance relationships are difficult. They become more difficult when you must walk your new boo-thang back to the dorm at promptly 11:00 PM. In this circumstance, decisions must be made. In the wise words of Chance the Rapper, “At 16 or even 21, nobody is worth stressing over. Go find yourself, the world is yours.” If you find the person that helps you do this, congratulations. If not, rethink taking your seventh dorm late in as many days. You only get up to six lates this semester, pal, and you have a Biology quiz tomorrow.

Part V: RATIONING

Everybody begins the year with a large sum of money on their cafe accounts; however, this total will soon be depleted if you spend too recklessly. A bit over \$100/week is customary. So, don’t overspend but don’t skip

meals either. This includes Saturday mornings, when the gazebo and cafeteria are both closed. Plan ahead, or figure out an alternative food source. And if needed, meal plan extensions can be purchased. Not all parts of Dorm Room Survival were addressed in this article. There are nuances regarding lates, decorations, and general to-do’s and not-to-do’s. Additionally, University Towers (UT) and the apartments have separate survival cultures. Some aspects are learned on the go, while others can be found in the Student Handbook. Any legitimate life or death situations should be addressed by calling 911. Good luck.

“Long-Distance relationships are difficult. They become more difficult when you must walk your new boo-thang back to the dorm at promptly 11:00”

AU Enactus Hosts C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N Health Fair



PHOTO BY JULIA VINICAZY

Dana Wilson | In rain or sunshine, cold or warmth, fall or spring, one thing remains on the campus of Andrews University and that's Ultimate Frisbee! This event takes place every

Sunday and Friday on the Athletic Field, when people from the community and campus meet for a game of fun intensity. This event, coordinated formally for over a year now, is an

outdoor sport that attracts those who enjoy playing outside and trying new things. Even psychology professor Dr. Bailey joins in on the fun. Playing Frisbee is most likely remem-

bered in most minds as a childhood essential or something to do to prevent boredom. Not often known is that the sport of Ultimate Frisbee is actually one in which professional teams convene and compete even on an international level. Point is, there is more to the activity than just tossing a disk. The official Ultimate Frisbee gets one moving like a soccer player and passing like a football player. Each player learns how to make quick decisions on his or her feet and builds strategic skills while doing so. Also, joining in on the fun is definitely a great way to do necessary aerobic exercise and increase sportsmanship—certain things you most likely do not get in the classroom. The Ultimate Frisbee event on campus does not consist of an official team, but rather combines eager and willing hearts to do something they thoroughly enjoy and provide other players with a new experience. Julia

Leacock, senior Biology major and a veteran of this sports activity, started participating in the event without knowing how to play. She says, "I didn't really know anyone there but everyone seemed rather friendly and happy that someone else was into the game and ready to play." Leacock became a regular attendee of Ultimate Frisbee and shared that she not only received outdoor exercise but also learned team building and how to push herself. With confidence, she states that playing Ultimate Frisbee "will take your enjoyment to a whole new level." Leacock encourages others to play as well. Whether you're a pro or have only touched a Frisbee once, the game is simple to learn as most of the rules are similar to those in basketball and other common sports. As Leacock mentioned, everyone is of positive spirits, welcoming anyone who joins and willing to help anyone new. Connor Reed, a senior International

Agriculture major and the event coordinator, is seeking to make this group an official club. He is looking for individuals who are willing to lead and are not graduating this year. While having an official team is not currently in the picture, having an organized group would be helpful in contributing to the campus of Andrews University as being the healthiest in the nation. Co-curricular credit can also be provided. Reed is also inviting anyone to join. More information can be found on the Facebook page "Andrews University Ultimate." This perennial event is worth the experience as new friends and experience can be made!



Free Square Dance Lesson

Sept. 19th 7-8:30PM

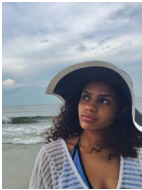
Hollywood Elementary School

John Beers & Hollywood Rds

Stevensville, MI

Call Ken Burke 269 325-7204

Humans



Adriana Santana
Humans Editor

Ending the Status Quo: Student Mission Spotlight

Nia Darville
Senior, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Interviewed by: Torian Hill

Is there a new direction that Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF) will be taking this year?
I'm not sure if I would call it a new direction that we will be taking, but we do have two specific goals that explain our vision for the year. The first goal is to increase opportunities for interaction among the black community. As a transfer student I came in and felt a distinctive lack of connectedness and family, and I really want to offer more opportunities for that type of relationship to happen on campus. The second goal is to use BSCF's place on such a large and diverse campus to show people of other cultures what black culture is. Some things would be the richness of it, the beauty of it, as well as some of our struggles too; however we really want people of other cultures to join us and learn what we are about.

In regards to BSCF, how do you see this year going?
I am very excited about this year; we have been doing a lot of club sign ups, a lot of people are interested in joining this year. I am very happy to have our new vice-president of diversity on campus wanting to be involved in the club. I think Andrews is in the right space for

growing and learning as well as having a real conversation with each other, so I am really thrilled to be a part of this process.

Can we expect anything different this year?
I think in past BSCF has been know for Impact, our Friday night vespers, and I want us to do so much more. We will be having a monthly social event, which will help us foster those interactions among the black community, and others who want to come and join. We are also having a monthly forum that will help us to achieve our second goal. These forums will be about topics such as the way we bridge the divide between blacks and whites, the issues the black community is facing, and highlighting beautiful things about the black community. We are also having the Gentlemen's Corner and the Powder Room, which are spaces for people to talk among each other, but they are guys-only and girls-only spaces. The intention is to have safe spaces for open communication.

Are there any other future plans for BSCF?
Yes, something new this year is the right of passage ceremony. This is a new initiative between BSCF and the Vice-President of Diversity office. We will be having a pre-commencement celebration during graduation week-

end for individuals of African descent to come together and acknowledge the struggles that they or their community have overcome to get to the point of graduation, as well as to honor the people who have helped them get there. This is where they will receive their Kunta Kinte cloth.

Can you explain some of the side projects that you are doing on your own?
The main project I have going on is called Sticky Note Faith. This is a Bible study tool that helps motivate individuals to study the Bible. It centers around a faith wall. When you read the Bible you find a text that sticks out to you, then you write it down on a sticky note and put the sticky note on your faith wall. When you are feeling down or don't feel like reading you look at the faith wall and get that encouragement that you need. You can actually go to www.stickynotefait.com to look at it. My blog posts go on that site as well.

Any other comments you would like to leave with the student body?
Our first forum is September 16th and we would like everyone to come out and support us. We are looking forward to a great year!



In Loving Memory W. Richard Lesher

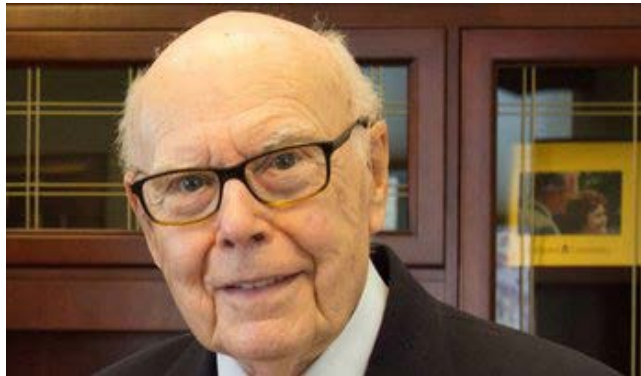


PHOTO BY IMG

Meredith Jones Gray
Chair, Professor of English
BA, MA Andrews University
PhD University of Michigan
Interviewed by: Maya Nelson

Former Andrews University President, Richard Lesher, passed away in his home in Loma Linda California, on August 18, 2017. He served as president from 1984-1994.

How long did you work under President Lesher?

I worked under him his whole administration.
What was the tone on campus? What did the students like while he was here?
Well I have a faculty perspective rather than a student's perspective obviously, but the university was coming off of a difficult time in its history when he was appointed to be president here, and he brought a sense of stability and open conversation. He tried to bring transparency to everything that transpired at the university, and so I would

say that he put the university back on an even keel, and gave it a sense of stability and balance.

Were you close with him in any way or was it just a president, faculty relationship?
Not especially. At the beginning I was a very young faculty member. He came in my second year of teaching, between my second or third year probably, and I was a junior faculty member. As is so often the case in the Adventist community, everybody knows everybody, and it just so happened that he and his wife had gone to school with my mother, so I had a bit of a connection that way. And once I got married a few years later, he had also gone to Shenandoah Valley Academy with my father-in-law, so there are always connections in the Adventist world. As a result, I think it was easier for him to remember what my background was. He was always very cordial and kind to me and my husband. He was not an extrovert, he was a very reserved person and I think he found it hard to do chit-chat and small talk and so on. It wasn't that he was unkind; it was just

that he was not a social butterfly. His wife was the person who provided a lot of warmth to their relations to everybody, but then again it wasn't because he was an abrupt person or unkind person, it was just that he was very reserved, quiet, and softspoken. Later on, years after he had retired, I interviewed him (because I am working on the history of Andrews University). I had these two long sessions of talking to him, and he was very open and very frank in his answers. So I felt then probably closer to him then I had ever felt working under him as president.

Was he, as a president, respected and revered from a faculty perspective?
I think he was generally respected, yes. People knew that he always tried to do the right thing, that he tried to be as honest as he could, and that he tried to pursue integrity. I think for those reasons he was respected and people knew that he was a man of strong faith and belief.

What was your personal reaction to finding out about his passing?
I was sad because I know his wife a lit-

tle bit and because of the long conversation I had with him. I knew that he wasn't well but I didn't know that he was close to dying so it was a surprise for me. So sadness and regret, but I feel like he represents a life well lived and so it's not a tragedy in the same way as when a young person dies. There is a sense of sorrow but also a sense that he was a good man.

Humans

“It’s Time AU” for Embracing Diversity

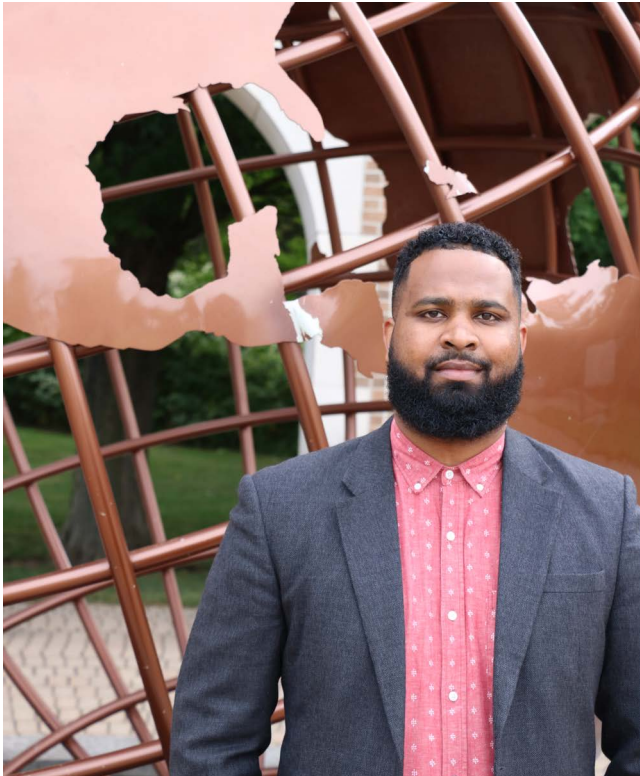


PHOTO BY KAYLA MINNICK

Michael Nixon

Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

michaeln@andrews.edu

Interviewed by Adriana Santana

Where are you from? Where were you raised?

I was born in Upstate New York, in Poughkeepsie, and lived there for a couple of years while my dad was pastoring. Afterwards we moved to Southern California for about three years, then we moved to Washington D.C., and then to Michigan area in 1998 and I spent half of my youth here because my father accepted the chaplain position at Andrews. We moved around a lot, which I would say is the narrative for pastors and their families.

Before this position you were a civil rights lawyer. What made you want to seek that profession?

I guess the first time I became interested in law was when we were in Southern California. I was probably seven or eight, and it was during the OJ Simpson trial, which was on TV every day and my parents were very interested in it. Of course I was young, but I was visualizing the courtroom, and seeing that whole process was very interesting to me. As I got older I learned more about the criminal justice system and decided I didn’t want to be a criminal lawyer, so I started looking into different ways to create change through the legal system. In high school I looked into fair housing and housing discrimination; to learn more I worked for the fair housing legal clinic my school had in Chicago, which really opened my eyes to that area of law. It’s the foundational

level of where exclusion can start to happen. Doing that gave me that passion for inclusion and trying to work on the ground level; so, I saw this opportunity of being the VP of Diversity as an expansion of that. Having worked through the ground level of advocacy and suing a lot of people it was interesting to transition into this role which is more policy and procedure. This position is also more about connecting with people and influencing/impacting the structures that are currently in place. It’s a unique challenge, but I feel like I have the foundation since I have worked for civil rights and have been on the other side.

Having been a student at Andrews University, and a resident of the Michigan area have you noticed a change on campus in regards to how black students/clubs are treated now versus then?

When I was student from 2007-2009, it seemed like BSCF was just starting to become bigger on campus. I would say BSCF was always open to campus, but I don’t think the campus was open to BSCF. I think it was when I was here that BSCF had changed their vespers’ name to Impact; before it was just BSCF which I think communicated that it was just for black people so the change in name really was making it known that it could be for everyone. Of course, there were still predominantly black students going, but it kind of expanded it to be more open to campus. You started to see a little more of the diversity there, so now I think there does seem to be more of a representational diversity. I think the service is still specific to the black church experience, but I think

being able to open that experience up to have more people enjoy is a great thing. Same thing with New Life; my father used to pastor there. I think that church was initially born out of a need for black students. So, growing up there it was almost exclusively for black people, but now I would say New Life is a part of the campus culture; which I think is a great thing. Their service outside (Throwback Sabbath) was probably the most diverse crowd it’s ever historically been, and I think it’s good to normalize the black experience so it’s not seen as a novelty thing, or something that is exclusively for black students, and can be appreciated, empowered, and welcomed by others.

I know the school year has just started, but do you think you’ll become comfortable in this new position, and may be here for awhile?

I came into this understanding that this was going to be a long term process, and I’m definitely thinking long term. I don’t necessarily know how long I’ll be here, none of that is guaranteed, but I know that this position is something the institution is very committed to and very much invested in. It’s definitely something that we’re trying to put some long term visioning and planning to, while also trying to impact whatever we can do right now. So there are short term action plans, but also there’s a long term vision.

Do you feel like you have a big responsibility because you are the first one kind of defining this role, and when people come in the future they will analyze what you did?

I’m taking it day by day. People could sit down and think about it and maybe the gravity will hit them that they’re the first person to have this position. However, I try not to think about the title, label, or the significance of it from that aspect. I think it is very humbling, and an amazing amount of responsibility and trust that the institution is putting in me. The thing that’s comforting in the midst of that is that I have the support of the president, provost, and other administrators as well as a number of different faculty and staff that have fought for diversity for years. This is also something that the Diversity Council has been pushing for over a decade, and there has been a lot of hard work from people who are no longer here that has led to this position happening. Of course the It is Time dialogue contributed, but that was sort of the tipping point on a foundation that has been working towards this for a long time. So, I guess I stand on the shoulders of all that work; which is again very humbling. At the same time I am excited to work with students, faculty and staff who are passionate about this, and I think that if we do this to-

gether we can create something beautiful.

What is your goal personally that you want to see on this campus?

My big goal, and I think President Luxton talked about this the other day at Convocation, is the campus community truly living out the gospel. There have been a lot of discussions today about lot of the different issues around diversity, inclusion, race, gender equality, or whatever the case may be, and those things have turned into political issues. Now what I’m trying to show everyone is that these aren’t just political issues; these are issues that affect us in our common humanity. They are actually issues we are given moral imperatives to stand up to because of the gospel. So we want to get to a place where we’ve truly embodied that, and also understand the value and common decency of everyone on this campus. Whether someone is Adventist, Muslim, atheist, or whatever your gender identity/orientation is, you’re valued as a human being, treated with respect and we can have civil dialogues about it. If we can get to that point I think that would be my ultimate goal, and I believe we can truly be successful.

I believe some people think that your position was solely born because black people wanted equality on campus. Is there anything you want to say to people who may feel this way?

Again, in my past when I worked with fair housing in Chicago I worked on discrimination cases of many different issue whether it be source of income, disability, religion, family status, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, or domestic violence victims. A number of different issues would come across my desk on any given day, and I had to approach those situations and scenarios in many different ways. So when I look at diversity I’m not just looking at it from my own personal experience of being an African-American man in this country. I also think about our Muslim students, disabled students, female students, and other students; those students are on my mind the most just because I know that that experience is foreign to me, so the only way I can learn more about it is by being sensitive to that and dialoguing with them. I think people are often going to make assumptions, and that is a part of the deal, but all I can say is that I’m truly thinking about this in a larger way.

Are there going to be any open discussions or forums where people can come and see more on how Andrews will fight for diversity?

We definitely want to do as many different forums as possible. Right now I’m doing my best to support any ongoing discussions. I know that BSCF

has a lot of things planned, BSAS as well, and I’m trying to engage with other student groups as well just to see when and where these conversations are going to be happening. I have some ideas about how we can start to have these dialogues, how we can have these really important conversations regarding hot topics and intense issues in a civil way. I want folks to feel like they can share their opinion anywhere, whether they think it will be popular or not, without the fear of being ostracized or rejected. A lot of this is difficult, but my main thing is how we can have some honest and fruitful dialogue while also coming out of those dialogues respecting and loving one another. So if there are any students or clubs that are trying to have those conversations I would like to have them contact me, and we can bounce ideas off of each other. Because the more we create spaces for dialogue the more we normalize conversations so they won’t be so polarized, and people can truly value each other’s perspectives and approach it as a family.

Are there any last remarks you would like to say, for any students reading this?

Again, I really want to engage with you. I’m not saying that as a cliché. A big part of why I am here is to listen to students of different backgrounds- because the only way I can understand the student experience is to talk to students. Don’t make assumptions of what you think I’m going to say about different issues. Often we put folks in a box and assume. I’m trying to be intentional about not doing that, and I hope that you do the same in response. I am here for you, so please feel free to shoot me an email, and we can talk.

Arts & Entertainment



Kelly Lorenz
Arts &
Entertainment
Editor

New Leadership for the Visual Arts, Communications, and Design Department



PHOTO BY JUSTIN VALLES

Natalie Hwang | Paul Kim
Chair of the Dept of Visual Arts, Communication and Design
AS, Loma Linda University
BA, BS, Pacific Union College
MFA, American University

Paul Kim, the new Chair of Andrews's Department of Visual Arts, Design, and Communication, lends a unique perspective to his filmmaking. Coming from a Korean American background, where arts and humanities are not valued as much as careers in medicine or law, he studied both physical therapy and theology before realizing visual arts was his passion.

His leadership in Visual Arts and Communication signifies a change for Andrews University's approach to the visual arts--one that seeks to integrate interdisciplinary studies for students to better equip them for their future careers.

Did your experience in previous fields better equip your work when you switched to filmmaking?

The first big project that I tackled was about Dr. James Appel, who worked in Chad at a run-down medical clinic that hadn't had a doctor in years. I was compelled to tell his story. My medical background, my studies in

religion, and my skills in visual arts and film all came together. As a storyteller you need to pull from years of philosophy, literature, art, and religion--all these ideas from different sources that help you put something into your work. We don't need filmmakers in the world who just have critical talent--we need people with rich life experience. So I have no regrets in my life, and that's important to me.

Should more people should approach careers in the arts and humanities with interdisciplinary studies?

Absolutely. I know it's hard to double major, but even a minor is good. Most employers are looking for students who can transfer their skills into different arenas. Expect that at some point in your life you will change. What makes you happy in life is understanding your skills, strengths, and weaknesses and finding any role that utilizes those strengths. When you know you're doing, what you're good at, that's what brings you satisfaction.

What improvements do you want to bring to your department?

We've been in the process of merging for over two years now, between Visual Arts and Design and Communications. Merging two departments is always a painful process because academia moves slowly. However, the industry expects students to have a wide variety of skills. We need our students developing a broader skill set across visual arts, design, and communications. Evision magazine was a direct result of collaboration between those departments. We want to do more project-based work in our curriculum, so when students graduate they have a portfolio of projects that bring attention to what they're capable of.

What kinds of projects interest you?

John Huey talks about how the public is defined and created. The notion of the public is created through recognition and common understanding of a problem. There's a very important social justice to what documen-

tarians do. We believe that our role as storytellers is helping individuals understand the Other. This bridges communities and is a form of peace-building.

Could you summarize the facets you consider when filmmaking and teaching film?

Making a documentary is incredibly hard because of what it demands of the characters. You need to be in their private world a great deal, and most people don't enjoy that. The best filmmakers are likeable and trustworthy--people who care enough so that immediately, [the subject] allows themselves to be vulnerable and trust those individuals with their life story. That is an incredible privilege. I can't really teach that, but it's a trait I want my students to appreciate. In the end, the directorial process is really the relationship you build with your subjects.

Introducing the Box Factory of St. Joseph

Adair Kibble | The Box Factory for the Arts has been serving the St. Joseph artistic community for 22 years as a place for local artists to create, showcase, teach, and sell art. The start of this art center stems from the Berrien Artist Guild's quest to find a place for their meetings, and eventually became a project to purchase a large permanent space for the artists of St. Joseph. Adapted from the building of a box factory constructed in 1902, the Box Factory maintains visual elements of architectural styles from many time periods, matching the diverse artistic styles represented inside. Ex-

posed wooden columns and beams interlock with metal rails and fluorescent lights over the various sections of the center. Though the building seems from the outside an unobtrusive brick building, it opens up to an expansive three floors. The top floor holds space for meetings for the museum's management and sponsors, the basement holds the studios of different artists, and the main floor holds galleries, the reception area, and a small shop.

On the main floor, the Williams Gallery displays a thematic collection of different forms of visual art, from paintings to sculptures and even a

decorative board game. The current theme being alchemy, each piece of art has a plaque tying it to the concept of alchemy (a transformative fusion of materials sought by medieval thinkers).

One volunteer, Bonnie Miller, models one of the necklaces for sale in the "Art Market" while she gives some information about the art center. She says that the building serves about 40 artists who "come and go as they please." She comments further saying, "(The artists) like the solitude of it." In addition, she describes the art classes offered, including portrait classes.

All around the art center there are signs of the intimacy of the local art community and its sponsors. Scattered through the store, cards have written pleas warning against shoplifting, in variants of, "Please don't steal from the artists. It's not nice, and you look like a nice person." On the inside of the front wall, the names of all the major sponsors are laid out on the bricks.

The criteria for membership in this group of artists are a monetary contribution as low as \$20, and a desire to create art for the community to share. Many artists, including Andrews students, have taken advan-

tage of this opportunity to further their growth as artists. The Box Factory provides a variety of options for artists and art enthusiasts to support one another, and its position is quite unique. The Herald Palladium even gave its 2016-2017 Reader's Choice Award for Art to the space. It is clear that the Box Factory has a special place in St. Joseph and the lives of its artists.

Arts & Entertainment

Good Eats of Berrien Springs

David Dunham | We are just shy of being two weeks into school, and I'm sure by now that you are already wondering to yourself, "how many more breakfast burritos can I eat?" or, "is my café card supposed to be under \$1000 already?" If you're looking to switch up your routine, allow me to propose to you a few alternatives that happen to be only a minute or two off-campus (if you have the ability to drive). I present to you David Dunham's Top 5 Off-Campus-But-Close-Enough-That-I-Can-Get-To-My-Next-Class Mealtime Solutions list: Roma's Pizzeria- Berrien's own "little Italy." This place turns out three different types of crusts, and has a

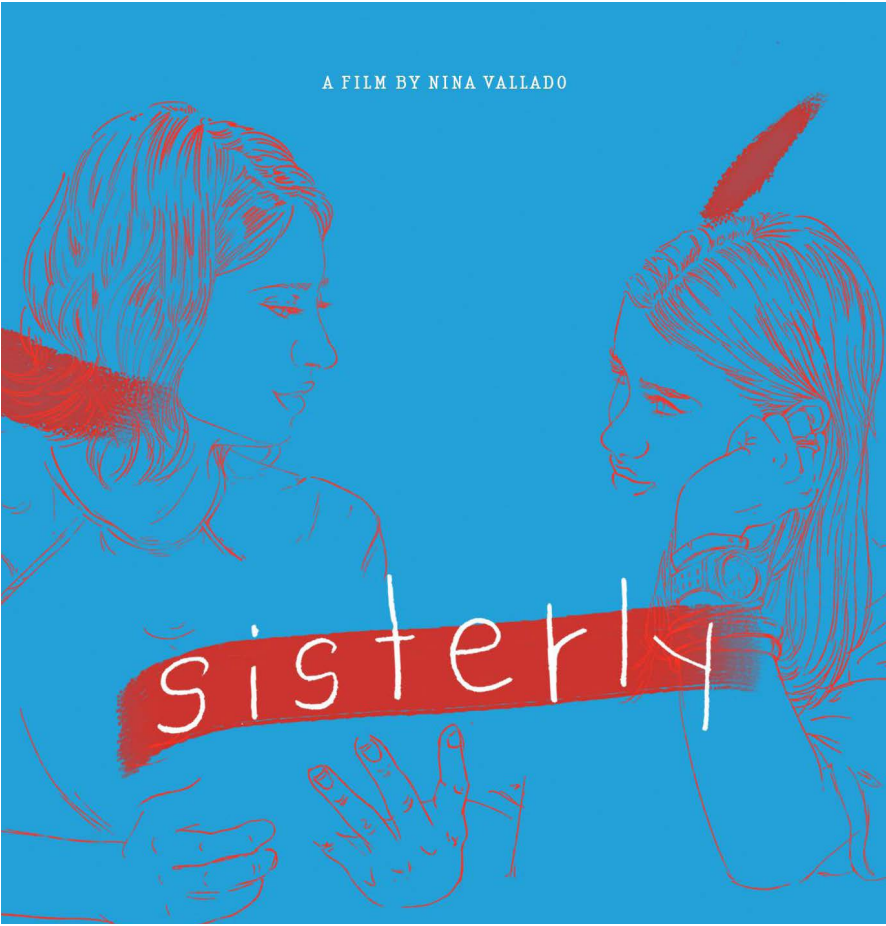
variety of toppings for their pizza. But for me, the highlight of any Roma's Pizzeria experience is the garlic bread sticks. Those things are to die for! Every dinner comes with soup, salad, and breadsticks, so this is not a place you will leave feeling hungry. Approximate walk time: 26 minutes one way. Melendez Imports- Not only is this authentic Mexican restaurant delicious, but the fact that this location has a store where you can buy your favorite spices or even just a quick snack makes it a winner. With the closest distance relative to the campus, Melendez offers you the quickest meal, while still retaining an amazing quality that will make any other

Mexican restaurant jealous. Also, they offer a delicious Caribbean fare on Thursdays and Fridays. Walk time: 2 min. Nikki's Café- Located right across the bridge from downtown Berrien Springs, this mom and pop diner has everything one might look for in old school American food. This place has killer breakfast plates, as well as a variety of lunch and dinner foods that almost all come in under \$7. Just because this diner is the farthest option does not mean it isn't delicious! Walk time: 27 min. Mabuhay Ethnic Foods- This is hands down one of the most authentic Asian cuisine experiences you will find here. Mabuhay has an amaz-

ing selection of staples from all over Asia. From boba tea to pansit, egg rolls to Hello Panda, this store will satisfy your cravings, and the prices are pretty good, considering the great quality. Walk time: 25 min. Baguette de France- Located just down the street, a quarter mile past Apple Valley, this premium European sandwich shop is a staple of Berrien Springs. Any time a group visits for an event, they always hope that they will have time to stop at the famed Baguette. I am here to tell you that the hype is not wrong, and Baguette is, in fact, extremely delicious. Despite being on the pricy side for a sandwich shop, this is number one on my list because it is just so good.

I have never been dissatisfied with a purchase at Baguette, and I look forward to it every single time I go. Walk time: 12 min.

Recent Graduate in the Media



Ruth Burn | In April, I interviewed Andrews Alumna Nina Vallado before the premiere of her documentary film, "Sisterly" at Andrews University. Four months later, "Sisterly" has garnered numerous awards and acclamations. Something about this movie deeply touches the hearts and minds of all who watch it. One viewer testified that the film was "so incredible that I, along with many others, sat through two back-to-back screenings of "Sisterly."" She went on to say that the film had really inspired her, and believes it has the power to inspire anyone who watches it. On August 10, "Sisterly" was announced as a finalist along with only 6 others for the national Student Academy Awards Documentary category. Selected out of the 1,600 applicants, the other finalists were students from schools including Stanford, NYU, Columbia University, and UC Berkeley. "Sisterly" has also been selected for the Student category for FirstGlance Film Festivals, the first and only indie film fest in Philadelphia and Los An-

geles. It also won five awards at the 2017 Christian Film Festival: Best Student Film, Best Producer, Best Animation, Inspire Award, and Best Director Fan Favorite. The film was recognized as an official selection for the Soo Film Festival in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and was winner of the best short documentary film at the Boston Short Film Festival. It's possible that the film's appeal comes from its unique blend of two meaningful themes; Lisa's journey with autism, and Nina's journey as she reaches across the barriers to intimately know her sister. Even though struggles with autism might not be something everyone has experienced, the film blends this theme with the universal themes of sibling and family relationships, and as a result the viewer is drawn deeper into both worlds. Nina says that once you meet an autistic person, you have still met only one autistic person. Every autistic child's journey is their own, but "Sisterly" can really help you to understand the unique nuances, challenges, and experiences of

The Last Word



Andrei Wayne K. Defino
Editor-in Chief

Of Fire and Blood...and Soil

Returning to Andrews included a number of losses for me: the loss of my summer freedoms, the loss of the summer warmth, and *spoiler alert* the loss of a dragon to a javelin-throwing ice king. I know. Things went crazy. I'm still not over it. But for the crowd who does not watch Game of Thrones (GOT), I believe there are still lessons to be gathered from the series' storytelling, especially when engaging with issues of identity politics.

Now I may only be a casual GOT fan, but I've always been intrigued as to why the show has gained such a massive following. Aside from the alluring fantasy elements, the complex storylines, and its visual appeal, GOT taps into the many vexing aspects of human nature and that's why people become so hooked. For one, many viewers and readers find themselves aligning with specific family houses and what those houses represent as depicted by the flags the characters fly, the colors they wear, and the actions they take. The viewers begin to see bits and pieces of themselves in the show.

Certain families, like House Bolton, fly the imagery of a flayed man on an X-shaped cross on their sigils and unsurprisingly the members, like their crest, are inherently violent. Moreover, their banners depict their humans victims rather than the representative animal of most other major houses. To their enemies, House Bolton's flags incite fear due to their reputation as a group that has no real regard for other human bodies.

In fact, even after its downfall, the psychological torture enacted by the men of the House on their victims continues to be felt and seen in their victims. However, despite being arguably one of the most despised houses in the show, House Bolton's tenacious desire and quest for power, molestation of the physical body and mental psyche, and ignoble morality became for me a disconcerting point of combined fascination and reprehension. But why? Maybe, just maybe, House Bolton with its sigil of a flayed-man flown high, showcases a darker side of humanity. Maybe the real monsters are what we hide beneath our skin, not the dragons and White Walkers feared in the show.

Of course, Game of Thrones isn't reality. There are no dragons in the sky, there is no Iron Throne, no humans

being skinned and no one declaring to reclaim what is theirs "with fire and blood." But current events place America in a time where its own brand of White Walkers have resurfaced—a group of people trying to reclaim their land under the motto of "blood and soil." This phrase, coined by German nationalists in the 19th century and popularized by Nazi Germany promoted the idea that ethnic identity is based on only blood descent and the territory in which an individual lives and is from. "Blood and soil," adopted by American white supremacists, became a central ideology of the Charlottesville protests.

Under banners of flames and Confederate flags, men and women chanted these words, uniting the Right as an outcry against the disenfranchisement of their people. Counter-protests emerged. Violence ensued. Blood was spilled. Lives were lost.

The tragedy of this event is not something I can forget. It terrifies me. Charlottesville showed men and women uniting under a flag of hate and under a history of exploitation and violence. Charlottesville revealed men and women unafraid to hide under hoods of white—people unafraid to hide the monsters within.

This is the real world, but unlike Game of Thrones, this moment in history isn't an opportunity to discuss who is in the right and in the wrong, because there is no gray area in this case. When you take on a banner, you take on its past. When you proudly fly the colors of a flag, you align yourself with an ideology and a community. The Charlottesville protesters left no doubts regarding their true loyalties.

So where do your loyalties lie? For GOT, most fans find themselves aligning with the underdogs, the dynamic feminists, the sly planners, and the tempting opportunists. Yet no one can wholeheartedly say they root for the real evils in the show: representations of death, mutilation, rape and slavery. It's easy for us to judge morality in the shows we watch, but we find it difficult to apply those same moral lenses in real life. When things are simplified on-screen, we can dictate and project which parts of our morality and convictions we wish to champion on the characters we watch. Real life, however, while much more com-

plex, still challenges us to meet our own moral standards.

"Choose you this day whom you will serve" is an often-quoted text from the book of Joshua and for good reason. It is a call to action, not to silence. It is a call to be decisive, not hesitant. It is a call to be someone who takes a stand. It is a call to be someone who chooses.

As this school year continues to develop, we are given the incredible opportunity to be a part of a diverse community—a space where differences (should) reside harmoniously. The different backgrounds, cultural, ethnic or geographic abundant in Andrews ultimately give us a chance to be part of our own Houses or communities of similar interests, traditions, values and goals. But we must keep in mind the other communities we inadvertently leave out when we align ourselves with certain ideologies and values.

In both GOT and Charlottesville, the ensuing violence hinged on how the past informed the current state of affairs. People grew to believe the mythos surrounding their identity, and sought to claim what they believed was rightfully theirs. Imagined histories of ownership and superiority birthed the notions of an entitled future, leading to the wars in the show and the destructiveness of Charlottesville.

At Andrews University, however, an enormous potential exists for the community to engage with the darker parts of our history. Constant exposure to worlds and experiences outside of our own perspective uniquely positions us as catalysts for change and improvement. In a place like Andrews, where opportunities for growth are encouraged and nurtured, we are given an incredible responsibility not only to broaden our minds but also to face harsh truths and do something about them.

This year, remember that your choices define who you are. As you develop new friendships, face new challenges and blaze your own trail, the things you do matter. They symbolize your core. The commitments you make and the things you say or don't say reveal your allegiances, distinguish your values and show your true colors.

To clarify, at this age or any age for that matter, you don't have to have it all together. Make mistakes, find your

own way, keep an open mind, accept criticism but don't be afraid to adjust your worldview.

And even if you find yourself in the wrong "house" this year, your past needn't dictate your path. A Lannister by blood and Targaryen by allegiance, Tyrion Lannister was born on the wrong side of the war, but he was given the opportunity to choose a new family, a new community and a new house—a chance to redeem his mistakes and work towards a hopeful future. Like Tyrion, your blood and soil do not have to dictate who you will be. It is our actions that unmask our true loyalties and therefore our actions that can also redeem us.

We shouldn't need another Charlottesville to teach us that.

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